



Use cases from the clinic and field

Cage side monitoring for indications of pain management

Background

Erica Witcher is a Licensed Veterinary Technologist (LVT) at an exclusively small animal hospital in New Hampshire. She has been in the veterinary field for 25 years. She is a practice manager with many responsibilities including: Patient care, client education, inventory control, office management, surgical assisting, laboratory testing and anesthetic monitoring.

Clinical Story

Bailey is a three-year old, spayed female Cock-a-poo. Bailey presented with sudden onset weakness in the hind end and was painful. She had a complete lack of proprioception on the left hind leg and poor proprioception on the right hind leg. Proprioception was normal on both front legs. All other neurological exam parameters were within normal limits.

Bailey was admitted to the hospital for further testing including: a complete blood count, blood chemistry profile, urinalysis with sediment, and full body radiographs. Blood work and urinalysis results were within normal limits. Radiographs showed narrowing of three intervertebral disk spaces.

Bailey was put on strict cage rest, medications, and various physical rehabilitation modalities. Bailey was connected to the Vetcorder several times a day and during her physical rehabilitation sessions in order monitor the heart rate and rhythm as an indicator of pain level.

The Vetcorder was a very useful tool for monitoring the effectiveness of pain management protocol for Bailey. We were able to adjust as needed to make her more comfortable.

Results

Bailey made significant improvement over the course of the week that she was in hospital for treatment. The proprioception in both hind legs improved and she gained strength in the hind end. Bailey was discharged and treated on an outpatient basis for several weeks. Bailey made a complete recovery within two months.



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Erica Witcher, LVT
New Hampshire